

Ministry
of the
Environment

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January 6, 1988

Mr. Chris Brown
1102-258 Lisgar Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0C9

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of November 25, 1987 in which you call attention to the problems of the environmentally hypersensitive person. I am pleased to hear that my Ministry's efforts in approaching a resolution to the question of pesticides use in the Ridgeview Estates Subdivision may have been well received. It is hoped that the outcome will be satisfactory to all residents of that community.

Through several initiatives, my Ministry has made efforts towards reduction of human exposure to pesticides, and it is thought that many of these programs will benefit all persons and particularly the environmentally hypersensitive person.

My Ministry has given increased attention to the question of pesticide use and the handling of pesticides by general public. We have developed a new educational program which will advise on the safe handling and use of pesticides. This educational material will be released to the public in the very near future.

The Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of the Environment, is committed to reducing this Province's dependence on pesticides by 50% within the next 15 years. To this end, the two Ministries will be developing programs to assist the farmers of Ontario to identify problem areas that now receive large amounts of pesticides for the control of the various pests. Efforts will be made to develop alternate means of pest management.

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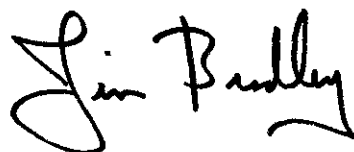
Food System 2002 is the beginning of this commitment. This project will be examining over 100 food crops grown in the province and alternate approaches to pest control will be implemented where possible. The education of the users of pesticide is a major thrust of this commitment. This winter, training programs are planned for some agricultural users and some vendors of pesticides.

The Ministries of the Environment and Health are aware of the problem of the environmentally hypersensitive person. Human hypersensitivity to chemicals is a complex problem requiring a better understanding of the issue than has been demonstrated in the past. Clearly, we must reduce environmental exposure where possible, and my Ministry is committed to that end. Indeed our pollution control policies are aimed at the virtually elimination of toxic contaminants in our environment.

Many of the concerns expressed in your letter, relating to the environmentally sensitive person, and the question of the implementation of the recommendations of the Thompson report, are as you have pointed out, within the mandate of the Ministry of Health. As these questions can best be addressed by the Ministry of Health I will be forwarding your letter to The Honourable Ms Elinor Caplan, in order to bring your concerns to her attention.

I share your concerns over the adverse effects of pesticides and chemicals in general, and I will be working to reduce human exposure and the impact of such contaminants on the natural environment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jim Bradley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jim Bradley
Minister

cc: The Honourable Elinor Caplan
Minister of Health

Mr. Richard Patten, M.P.P.
Ottawa Centre